

*K Stanhope (P.B.)*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Chesterfield*

*615. a. 31*  
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THE  
CHARACTERS

OF

GEORGE the FIRST,  
QUEEN CAROLINE,  
Sir ROBERT WALPOLE,

Mr. PULTENEY,  
Lord HARDWICKE,

Mr. FOX,

AND

Mr. PITT,

REVIEWED.

With Royal and Noble ANECDOTES:

AND A SKETCH OF  
LORD CHESTERFIELD'S  
CHARACTER.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

**S**UCH slight efforts of the pen as sketches of characters carelessly written, seem to be out of the reach of criticism : they lay claim to our candor, rather than call for our censure.

If the Noble Writer, in characterizing some great Personages, and especially George the First and Queen Caroline, (names the Reviewer has been taught to respect from his infancy), had spared illiberal expression, and unjust accusation; the publick would never have been troubled with this trifle.

Fair and liberal criticism will not arraign slight mistakes; it is sufficient just to point them out: but bold as well as false charges of moral turpitude, thrown upon great and respectable persons, subject the accuser to something more than censure—to the severest reprehension—to detestation.

To some of the Noble Lord's characters nothing was wanting but a few slight touches to render them more round and complete. I have sometimes enlarged, and sometimes softened, features, to make the portrait a fuller resemblance of the original. In the delineation of L. Chesterfield's character, I have been actuated by no passion—misled by no prejudice. The short sketch is drawn from the life. An elegant style and lively imagination are only wanting, to make the picture as finished as it is like.

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## REVIEW, &c.

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### GEORGE the FIRST.

**T**HE character of George the First, as it is drawn by the noble writer, does not by any means exhibit a good likeness of that Monarch.—It is rather an imperfect sketch, a bare outline, than a picture resembling the original.

B

To



2 LORD CHESTERFIELD'S

To call a Prince *a dull German*,  
is but a clumsy way of writing, and  
not to be expected from the man  
who had sacrificed to the Graces.

The abilities of George the First  
were not brilliant, it is confessed;  
but no man will presume to say  
they were contemptible. His be-  
haviour during the four last years  
of queen Anne's reign, when she  
was in the hands of Tory mi-  
nisters, was equally prudent and  
generous; while he supported  
measures which might tend to se-  
cure his succession to the throne  
of Great Britain, he utterly dis-  
countenanced



countenanced such violent counsels as were offensive to the reigning Prince: he rejected, with indignation, a scheme planned by the Whigs, to borrow money at five *per cent.* with a view to secure votes, by bribing the members of both houses of parliament. It was his great unhappiness, to be unacquainted with our language and our laws: and it is to be lamented that, when upon the death of the Duke of Gloucester the crown was settled upon the Brunswick Family, no care was taken to instruct the Elector and his Son in both. They came strangers into

4 LORD CHESTERFIELD'S

the kingdom; and, I had almost said, they died such.

Addison, about a fortnight before his death, and when his illness gave him a near prospect of the grave, in a letter to secretary Craggs, styles George the First, "the most amiable monarch that ever filled a throne \*."

If integrity and sensibility could give him a title to that character, he certainly deserved it.

\* Dedication of his Works, published by Tickell.

Upon

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Upon his accession to the crown, he cautioned his ministers not to suffer him to pass laws that were detrimental to the subject; for he was determined, he said, to maintain all legal sanctions.

He was extremely susceptible of friendship. The death of the Earl of Halifax affected him very much. The great abilities, open warmth of temper, and noble spirit, of Earl Stanhope, had rendered him very dear to this Prince. The King was at supper when the unexpected news of his death was brought to him; he rose up im-

B 3

mediately,

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mediately, burst into tears, and left the company.

Lord Chesterfield must have never understood or felt the power which a woman has over the greatest and wisest of men, when he reproaches George with being governed by the Dutches of Kendall, whom he politely styles, *an idiot* \*.

Though the King's general character was that of good-nature, upon just occasions he could give

\* The King might have said to Lord C. in the words of Oroonoko:

— *No man condemn me who has never felt  
A woman's power, or known the force of love.*



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a severe and pertinent reproof. When Bishop Atterbury told him, at the time of the first Scotch rebellion, that he was sorry to acquaint his Majesty the rebels had made a considerable progress; he replied, "I fear the rebels as little, my Lord, as you do Jesus Christ."

George the first was easy of access, pleasing in his manner, and graceful in his deportment.—The dignity of his person rendered him exceedingly proper for the centre of a drawing-room. The few who can now remember his behaviour

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in the circle, will call to mind a most pleasing picture of a condescending and benevolent mind.

An enlightened foreigner \* assures us, it was this Monarch's maxim,  
“ Never to abandon his friends ; to  
“ render justice to all the world ;  
“ and to fear no one.”

\* Milot.

QUEEN

QUEEN CAROLINE.

**T**HE character of queen Caroline is written by lord C. without regard to decency or truth.—Princes, who are continually surrounded by the artful and the rapacious, the ambitious and the deceitful, may be cautious without being liable to censure; nay, they may be justified in the practice of that dissimulation which a father recommends so earnestly to his son, as a necessary part of his conduct in life.

Caroline had the good sense to perceive, that one ingredient was  
necessary



necessary in her behaviour, which she saw the king her husband utterly incapable of putting in practice, popularity; she neglected no methods to ingratiate herself with all ranks of people: with the nobility she was familiar; she patronized the learned, and was affable and condescending to the meanest. Some affectation I will grant there was, in pretending to understand the metaphysics of Leibnitz and Clarke, whose letters passed through her hands, but I heartily wish princes had no worse passions than such as proceed from the love of fame. The King had himself so little taste for  
the



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the polite arts, as to think Hogarth overpaid with the magnificent present of a guinea for his incomparable March to Finchley. It was incumbent on the Queen to supply that apparent deficiency in her royal consort.

She understood more of the doctrines peculiar to the several sects of religion, than generally falls to the knowledge of persons in high station; and would condescendingly converse with the different sectaries in their own way. When, in her walks at Hampton-court, or Kensington, she met with the lowest class of people, she obligingly asked them questions

questions relating to their stations in life, and answered their honest salute of, God bless your Majesty! in the same stile of, Godda bleffa you, honest man! The delicacy of a Lord Chesterfield may be offended with such arts in a Queen, at the same time that he justified them by his own behaviour whenever he had the least point to gain.

To Queen Caroline the people of England owed the satisfaction of seeing the Royal Family dine in public; a gratification which was both pleasing and popular; and, what is more, it cost nothing. However, this custom has unaccountably

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countably been discontinued by a  
condescending Prince, father of a  
numerous and amiable offspring.

It was vulgarly said, that she was  
covetous; but her general conduct  
ought to have prevented so unjust  
a charge. Her large and constant  
donations to the necessitous prove  
the benevolence of her disposition,  
and the extensiveness of her charity.

The charge of ambition, which  
the Characterizer says might, had  
she lived, have been dangerous to  
herself or the constitution, is surely  
not well founded. If the Queen

1      governed



governed the King, it cannot be denied that she herself was as much under the direction of Sir Robert Walpole, whose political principles, this noble writer himself affirms, were not adverse to the constitution.

It is astonishing so polite a man should descend to the vilest scandal. He flatly charges the Queen with promoting the King's gallantries. That she did not violently or imprudently oppose what she could not prevent, was a proof of her good sense. But that she ever stooped to the infamous office of



a procurefs, none but a mind equally corrupt and uninformed would insinuate.

Pope, who, to gratify the ridiculous pride and paffions of Swift, impertinently refused Queen Caroline's vifits, in fummig up her character, pays her that tribute which fhe truly deferved. He affirms, that all about her moft fincerely lamented her death. More need not be faid in vindication of her character; for thofe who are beloved by their domeftics, want no other panegyrick. She died of a diftemper, which her delicacy

delicacy would not permit her to reveal

Her refusing to see Frederick Prince of Wales in her last illness, may possibly deserve some censure; but the Queen, who was the most submissive wife in the world, made the Prince's obedience to his father's will the condition of granting his request.

\* A rupture.

SIR

Sir ROBERT WALPOLE.

SIR Robert Walpole had so open a countenance, and such expressive features, that it was almost impossible for a skillful painter not to draw an exact likeness of him.

The noble writer, though he has kept to the general idea of his character, has not been so exact in his delineation of it as might have been expected from one who professes to have been long and well acquainted with it. He tells you, that his sole view was

C

to

to make a great fortune : how does that appear ? Sir Robert Walpole did not die a rich man ; it is plain then that he disdained the accumulation of riches, which could not be obtained but by the oppression of his country.

In the view of his public character, the noble Lord is not very distant from the truth. He was the first minister that taught corruption systematically. Corruption was ashamed, and held down her head, till he gave her courage, and taught her to stare the world in the face. He maintained, that  
every



every man was venal, and had his price: he asserted openly, that all the world was governed by interest. So good-natured a man as Walpole, was in this more guided by judgement and experience, than any motive proceeding from malice or corruption. Long practice, with the world had taught him how ill-founded were the pretensions of those men who boasted of being influenced by virtuous and patriotick motives\*.

\* Notwithstanding his avowed principles of venality, he sometimes checked the mean servility of Members of Parliament, especially those from North Britain.

Yet, though we must own he ruled this country by general corruption, and succeeded in his plans of government by temporary expedient, there was a decency in his parliamentary conduct, of which we now lament the total absence.

Every motion during his administration was treated with respect, and every question discussed with seeming fairness and impartiality. The parliamentary chiefs were ranged on both sides, according to their supposed merit; and engaged each other, not only with vigour, but with that liberality which becomes

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comes citizens. There was then no rude and boisterous uproar, no boyish and tumultuous clamour of The question! the question!

Sir Robert was not only an artful but an eloquent speaker;

he generally reserved himself for the close of a debate; he wished to take off the edge of the most powerful of his opponents. This compliment he paid frequently to Pulteney, but more often to Sir William Wyndham, whose consummate knowledge of Parliamentary business, and happy talent in speaking, rendered him extremely



formidable, and worthy such an answerer as the Minister.

He was too apt to be alarmed at any attack upon his character or administration from the press, in a poem or a pamphlet: his constant practice, on such occasions, was to get a friend to invite the author to dine at a tavern or at his friend's house, and he himself to be of the party, as if by chance. Such meetings generally ended in a conversion of the patriotic author, by the powerful eloquence of a bank note.

No



No minister was ever so liberal in rewarding his authors as W. It has been said, and I believe proved beyond contradiction, that Arnall, the writer of The British Journal, at different times, had sums from him to the amount of ten thousand pounds. The slightest favour from the press was sure to be amply rewarded: An anecdote at the bottom of the page will give a striking proof of this\*.

In

\* About the year 1735, several very severe pamphlets were published against Walpole's administration. Among the rest was a poem called—"Are these things so?" A young gentleman of about nineteen years

In private life he was certainly a most desirable companion; and though Lord Chesterfield was too delicate in his notions of convivial pleasures, and could not bear any thing above a sipper or a smile, more open and generous natures were highly pleased with Walpole's genuine flow of good-humour and

of age, took it into his head to write an answer to this piece, to which he gave the title of, "Yes, they are!" Sir Robert was so pleased with it, though but a flimsy performance, that he sent for Roberts, the publisher, and expressed his great satisfaction at the compliment paid him, by giving a bank note of a hundred pounds; which he desired the publisher to present with his compliments to the author.

honest

honest mirth, which his Lordship calls illiberal, and below the dignity of his rank and station.

There is one honourable part of his character that I wish all ministers would imitate. He never forgot the smallest act of friendship that he received from the greatest or meanest man in the kingdom: the gratitude as well as munificence of his temper are so well known, that it is needless to produce any instances in support of this assertion.

Mr.

Mr. PULTENEY.

**W**ILLIAM Pulteney was happy in having every advantage of birth and fortune.

The brilliancy of his parts excited the admiration of men celebrated for their eminence in the Republick of Literature, at a very early period of his life. We are told, from the best authority\*, that Congreve submitted his *Way of the World*, one of his most finished pieces, while in MS. to the criti-

\* Mr. Colman, in his dedication of *The Jealous Wife* to the E. of Bath.



cisms of young Pulteney when a boy of seventeen years of age.

As he advanced to maturity, he became acquainted with the members of the famous Kit-Kat Club. He was intimate with Addison and Steele; had the honour of a dedication of their periodical essays\*; and received about the same period an honourable testimony of his integrity from a masterly writer, to whose political principles he was professedly an enemy†.

When he aspired to rise in the state, and became a speaker in

\* Second volume of The Guardian.

† See the Supplement to Swift, p. 221.

Parliament, the ministers of George the First soon distinguished him by employment. United with Walpole, and apparently in the strictest bonds of friendship, he was looked upon as his firm support and coadjutor. But ambition soon broke through the ties that were cemented only by interest. The minister, who could brook no rivals in power, saw plainly that Pulteney was too great to act an inferior part in administration, and quarrelled with him at once to get rid of him.

The country-party, who did all in their power to foment the dif-

ference between the two friends, received Pakeney with open arms. They rejoiced to have for their leader a man of his fortune, consequence, and intrepidity. His abilities as an orator were of the first rank. From his constant perusal of the classics, he seemed to have derived a kind of inspiration. When he spoke, he had the art to persuade all who heard him, that he felt every sentiment which he uttered.

He was pointed, gay, facetious, pathetic, or diffuse, as the argument required; whatever rhetorical weapon he chose to brandish, he

was



was sure to come off victorious, for he was master of them all.

He conducted the opposition with skill and vigour, for the long term of seventeen years. During the conflict, his animosity to Walpole led him into that most scandalous practice of betraying private conversation \*. However, he lost

\* P. in a pamphlet which he published about the year 1735, and which contained a particular defence of himself against a ministerial work called "Scandal and Defamation displayed," declared upon his honour, that Sir Robert Walpole had spoken in very slight terms of the King when Prince of Wales; he quoted the very words which were supposed to be made use of by the minister, and which conveyed great marks of contempt.

his

his aim; for the King generously took the part of the person betrayed; and, to shew his indignation against the informer, with his own hand he struck his name from the list of Privy Counsellors.

It must be confessed, that since the Pensionary Parliament of Charles the Second, when Corruption first began to shew its head, no scheme to overthrow a minister had been so well planned, and regularly pursued, as that which began in 1725, and ended with Walpole's dismissal in 1742.

The

The fall of the minister was fatal to the popularity of his rival. When he had reached the summit of his wishes, he was dazzled with his situation;—the prospect made him giddy.—He was for a few days uncertain what to do—an accident, which happened during the adjournment of parliament, might possibly accelerate his determination.

As he was riding in Hyde Park, he had an accidental fall from his horse, which gave him a slight bruise; the King happened to come by at the very instant,  
and

and being informed of Mr. Pul-  
teney's misfortune, he immediately  
went to him, took him into his  
coach, and shewed such concern  
for him, as could not but soothe  
and affect the mind of a person so  
publicly distinguished by his Sovereign  
at so critical a time.

Pulteney's conduct soon became  
decisive; the prey, that had been  
fairly hunted down, was suffered to  
shelter itself under the wing of  
Royalty.—Walpole, instead of  
being punished, was rewarded with  
a peerage.—His great enemy soon  
followed him into that place, where

D

great



great abilities and honest principles are of no service to the owner of them, or to his country—

“*Lasciate ogni speranza, voi ch’intrate* \*.”

Pulteney hoped, that, by giving up all lucrative employments, and barely accepting a title, he had silenced obloquy, and removed suspicion.—But the avarice of his temper was so well and universally understood, that it was vulgarly supposed he had accepted

\* Words over Hell-gates.—

Dante, *Inferno*, lib. iii.

large

large sums for making the compromise between the crown and the leaders of the opposition;—this was indeed looked upon to be equally an idle and groundless surmise. However, it is very certain that a great part of Piccadilly, which produced a very large income, and which till that time had belonged to the crown, became all of a sudden the property of Mr. Pulteney. I will not here indulge conjecture, nor endeavour to draw back the veil which time has thrown over a very equivocal transaction: I wish not to throw unmerited reproach on

the dead, or to disturb the repose of the living. Pulteney, when he obtained a peerage, thought himself that his ambition had been satisfied ; but he was mistaken ; for we are told that, upon the death of Lord Wilmington, he applied to George the Second, to succeed him in his office of First Lord of the Treasury. The King silenced him at once, by assuring him that he had promised that place to Mr. Pelham.

Lord B. was one of those noblemen whom Lord Carteret recommended to the king in 1744, as a proper



proper person to serve his Majesty in a considerable employment. The sudden resignation of the Pelhams and all their friends prevented the scheme of a new ministry from taking place. At the same time we must not forget, that the E. of B. suffered most egregious mortifications upon that event. The Earl of Pembroke, an honest and intrepid man, but rough and intractable in his disposition, resigned his place of chamberlain, in such a manner as conveyed the most insulting reproach to the E. of B\*.

Upon

\* I believe, said P. that the E. of B. is

D 3

a sc—l,



Upon the death of George the Second, the E. of B. made a tender of his services to his present Majesty.—The offer was accepted, so far as to the hearing of his advice; but the Great Person knew his character was so disagreeable to all parties, and so odious to the people in general, that he could not think of giving him any post in the administration. It is affirmed with great confidence, that,

a sc—l, because your Majesty told me so. Sc—I was a favourite term of reproach with the late King. Some say the words were spoken in the hearing of L. B. but that is very unlikely;—he certainly would have resented them.

when-

whenever his opinion was asked relating to state-matters, he constantly gave it against the popular side of the question.

If we take a view of Pulteney in private life, we shall see him exhibit a character as truly inconsistent and contradictory as in his public conduct. In a long and violent struggle between those two master-passions, Ambition and Avarice, the latter generally, if not always, gets the better. Though Ambition may have its bounds, Avarice has none: when the decaying faculties of the human mind ren-

der the love of fame but feeble, and almost extinct, Avarice predominates as powerfully as ever, and flourishes in full vigour to the last moment of life.

The world is pretty well convinced, that however Pulteney's ambition, after various disappointments, might be stifled, or even annihilated, his love of money did not forsake him to his last hours.

But, what shall we say to the character of this nobleman, as given us by two eminent prelates\*?

\* Newton, Bishop of Bristol; and Pearce, Bishop of Rochester.

The



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The one proclaims him a disinterested patriot ; and the other avers, that, to his knowledge, he bestowed the tenth part of his income in charitable uses!

His patriotic virtues are well known; but his charities were a secret, till Bp. Pearce divulged them. Can the noblest munificence dwell under the same roof with the most fordid parsimony? — When we take a large and comprehensive view of human nature, we find it so various and so eccentric, that we may grant that the thing is not impossible; for not  
only



only fools, but the wise, sometimes lie hid in inconsistencies.

But if the Earl of B. had his list of pensioners, how comes it that Amhurst was forgotten? The fate of this poor man is singular:—he was the able associate of Bolingbroke and Pulteney, in writing a celebrated weekly paper, called *The Craftsman*. His abilities were unquestionable; he had almost as much wit, learning, and various knowledge, as his two partners; and when these great masters chose not to appear in publick

lick themselves, he supplied their places so well, that his essays were often ascribed to them. Amhurst survived the downfall of Walpole's power, and had reason to expect a reward for his labours. If we excuse Bolingbroke, who had only saved the shipwreck of his fortunes, we shall be at a loss to justify Pulteney, who could with ease have given this man a comfortable income.—The utmost of his generosity to Amhurst, that I ever heard of, was a hogthead of claret!—He died, it is supposed, of a broken heart; and was buried at the charge

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charge of his honest printer, Richard Franklin.

The most agreeable part of Pulteney's character was, his fondness for convivial pleasures; in which he bore a very agreeable and shining part.—But, though he loved company, and gave dinners, the splendor of his entertainments was always sullied by the sordid œconomy of the treater\*.

\* He once borrowed, of the D. of Newcastle, Monsr. Cloe, the celebrated Cook, to prepare and superintend a dinner for the first people in the kingdom: Cloe was out of all patience to find his plan of entertainment curtailed by his avaricious employer; and left the house in a passion.

His



His method of discharging bills was curious.—It must be owned, that he was punctual in paying his tradesmen; but his custom was, to amass a great number of Portuguese coin of all sorts, from the four shillings and six-pence to three pound twelve; all which he was extremely ready in telling, to an exact nicety of value. But the person who was to receive the money, not being so quick and skilful as his Lordship, was directed to dispatch, or to call another time. Those tradesmen who had the candor to trust to his Lordship's reckoning, were sure to repent their  
con-



confidence; for there was generally a mistake in his favour.

The Editor of L. Chesterfield's Characters has sufficiently apologized for his mistake, relating to L. B's scheme of getting a burying place for himself and posterity, *gratis*, in a royal chapel. But he should have told the publick, that the sum of seventy pounds was really paid for the ground; and that it is customary, whenever it is opened, to pay stated fees to the clergy.

Mr.

Mr. F O X.

**T**HE noble characterizer has been convicted, by his honest Editor, of a gross error, relative to the family of Mr. Fox. So palpable a mistake, where the means of information were open and obvious, is scarce excusable, and borders upon the propagation of falshood.

Mr. Fox, by marrying into the noble family of Lenox, enriched the blood of his descendants, without enlarging their fortune.

The

The early part of this gentleman's life was spent in pleasure and dissipation; and this, I suppose, is common enough to men who enjoy sound health with strong passions.

When he applied to business, he proved himself equal to any employment. He studied his great master Walpole with success; drew from him what was useful in his ministerial capacity; and copied him in the joyous part of his character, which best suited his future views of gaining friends. He softened the broad staring mirth  
and



and licentious festivity of Walpole into a conviviality more agreeable, into wit more relishing, and gaiety more palatable.

With Chesterfield we must own, that Fox was not a graceful speaker \*, though an acute and discerning manager of a debate; and this is that part of oratory, and no more, which, Clarendon tells us, distinguished the senatorial abilities of the great Hampden.

\* The speeches of C. Fox, the son of this gentleman, are equally distinguished for acuteness of argument, and elegance of expression.

E

He



He had the skill and patience to watch his time when to carry his point, and to lead the house into his opinions. He had the courage, when detected in acting with impropriety, to disengage himself without much embarrassment.

George the Second had often experienced his abilities, as well as a constant and ready submission to his will. In a very critical time, he trusted to him the management of his business in the House of Commons. Fox was so far intoxicated with royal favour, that

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that his natural caution forsook him; he sent cards to the members of parliament, importing that the King had trusted to his care *the management of the House of Commons*.—The glaring absurdity of such a behaviour disgusted every body;—his power was immediately lost, and he was obliged to resign his place. His influence with his master continued still as great as ever, and he gained a more lucrative employment under a minister who hated him.

Fox, like Walpole, had a sovereign contempt for all who pre-

tended to act on patriotick and virtuous principles. He knew the world too well to be duped with pretences.

His art in managing elections was superior:—a late contest for the county of Oxford will not be soon forgotten, nor his skill in managing for the party he espoused. He knew beyond all men the true method of gaining votes. A tradesman in the Strand, who has since figured in Germany as a commissary, was well rewarded for understanding and obeying the commands of his friend



friend and patron, upon this and other similar occasions.

Like his great exemplar, Walpole, he took particular care to reward all who were connected with him and employed by him.

He could bear no opposition to his will under any pretence; he would gratify his resentment without coming to an eclarcissement, and make his enemy feel the weight of his displeasure, without giving him the chance of escaping it.



The most exceptionable part of his character, was his engaging young noblemen in the practice of gaming; this was not done with a view to his own profit, but to render them subservient to the ministry, by involving them in difficulties. This odious custom was not peculiar to Mr. Fox; it seems to have been a branch of ministerial business. Lord Oxford was one of the few ministers who detested gaming. Pelham and Anson were such true slaves to the love of play, that dispatches were often brought to them at White's. The young heirs of noble families and  
great

great estates must have been wonderfully edified by such examples!

Fox was an excellent husband, a most indulgent father, a kind master, a courteous neighbour; and, what the world in general has little known, but which I now tell them on the best authority, a man whose *charities* demonstrated that he possessed in abundance *the milk of human kindness*.

Highly and justly as he was incensed against an ungrateful dependant, whom he had gradually raised from

obscurity to the summit of opulence; who presumed, even before the Sovereign, to impute to his benefactor the infamous falsehood himself had fabricated; Mr. Fox, satisfied with spurning the scorpion from his bosom, very prudently declined all further revenge—it was sufficient for him that the monster of ingratitude was left to his own reflections, and that universal contempt which he merited.

In his person Mr. Fox was of the middle size; he was, like Ulysses\*,

\* Iliad, Book III.

more

more graceful in his seat than when he stood up. His features were strongly marked, his brow large and black, his aspect more penetrating than pleasing.

LORD



LORD HARDWICKE.

**T**HE elegant sketch of Lord Hardwicke's character by Chesterfield is so just, that little can be added to it. But, though the out-line is well drawn, the resemblance may be heightened by re-touching some of the features.

When Lord Raymond Chief Justice of the King's Bench died, and Sir Peter King the Chancellor retired, the minister was apprehensive of a dispute which might

probably arise from the pretensions of the two great officers of state, Sir Philip Yorke the Attorney General, and Mr. Talbot the Solicitor. The latter was supposed to be much more conversant with chancery-business than common law. The claims of Yorke were allowed to be superior on account of his place. The compromise was made to the satisfaction of both parties. Sir Philip accepted the post of Chief Justice of the King's Bench, with an advanced income; and the amiable Mr. Talbot had the seals given to him. On the death of the latter,

Hardwicke

Hardwicke had the honour to preside on the same day in the supreme courts of law and equity.

Lord Hardwicke was an agreeable and persuasive speaker; his manner was weighty, and he delivered it with an air of dignity. His manner, however, was not striking, nor had he the skill to move the passions. Lord Chesterfield has observed, that he never could totally divest himself of the pleader. This is a defect incident to the gentlemen bred to the bar; a defect which too generally in-

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creases in proportion to the pleader's eminence. They acquire a formality in the courts of law, which they never can shake off in the senate.

Hardwicke's avarice subjected him to much obloquy: his general parsimony, and the mean œconomy of his table even on days of festivity, procured him the vulgar appellation of *Judge Gripus*.

The Marriage Act was a thing of his own creating, and which he espoused with all his might and vigour:



vigour : it met with great opposition in the House of Commons, and was thought, by all impartial people, a very improper law in a commercial country, where all possible methods should be taken to encourage a legal commerce between the sexes. However, by his great power and influence, the Chancellor carried this bill triumphantly through both houses. Those who pretended to know his real intentions gave out, that, in the prosecution of this business, he had nothing so much at heart as the securing his own children from

from rash and imprudent marriages.

He was eminently distinguished for his professional abilities; he discharged the two great offices of Chief Justice and Chancellor with universal approbation. In politics, he was cautious, timid, and indeed utterly deficient; averse to vigorous measures, he wished for peace at all events. It is said, that he was weak enough to apprehend an invasion from the French in flat-bottomed boats.

He was for spinning out business by negotiation and treaty, and in  
this

this too he was unskilful and un-  
experienced.

Some time after he was obliged to resign the seals, he went to court, to pay his duty to the King; but he was dressed so very plainly, and so much like a country gentleman, that his Majesty conversed with him a few minutes without knowing him. But the moment the King discovered his mistake, he caressed him in a manner very unusual to one of his disposition.

Mr.

Mr. P I T T.

**T**HERE is a grandeur in some subjects, which few have abilities to comprehend fully, or describe happily.

When the importance of the object calls for uncommon vigour of mind and elevation of style, it is no wonder if a writer should sink under the burden which he has rashly imposed upon himself.—He who attempts to draw the character of a Pitt, must not expect to

F

meet



meet with applause—it will be well for him if he escape with pardon for his presumption.

Chesterfield pretends, that this great man owed his vast acquisition of knowledge to an acute and hereditary distemper.—I would not flatly contradict the noble writer; but it is well known, that Pitt, when a boy at Eaton, was the pride and boast of the school: Dean Bland, the master, valued himself upon having so bright a scholar: the old man shewed him to his friends, and to every body, as a prodigy.

Walpole

Walpole scarce heard the sound of his voice in the House of Commons, but he was alarmed and thunderstruck; he told his friends, that he would be glad, at any rate, to muzzle that terrible cornet of horse. The minister would have promoted his rise in the army, provided he would have given up his seat in parliament.

Demosthenes was his great model in speaking; and we are told, that he translated some of his orations, by way of exercise, several times over. But though he was

delighted with the manner of this orator, who united a wonderful power of expression to the most forcible method of reasoning, yet he was equally master of the pleasing, diffuse, and passionate style of the Roman orator.

He enjoyed every requisite to command attention in popular assemblies; a striking figure, a sonorous voice, a dignified action—add to this, a keen and ardent look, which occasionally terrified and disarmed his opposers.

Though



Though he was a master of the great artillery in eloquence, the descriptive, the sublime, and the pathetic ; he did not disdain to use the small arms of rhetoric ; his satire was pointed—his ridicule diverting—his wit brilliant—and his irony provoking.

One great proof of his superiority to all other speakers was, his being heard at the latest parliamentary hours with astonishment, nay with pleasure, by his very enemies.



His great abilities forced him upon a prince who hated him, as the man who had constantly opposed his darling principles of government—one who had reprobated German and Continental measures in the plainest and most forcible terms. In the great struggle between the king and the subject, the latter was obliged to submit; he could not serve his country, without gratifying the Prince's humour. He adopted those modes of political conduct which he had so openly condemned; but in this he did the kingdom most effectual service:

he

he revived the drooping courage,  
and retrieved the sinking honour,  
of the nation.

The *quadrennium*, or four years  
of Pitt's administration, is not  
to be matched in all our history.  
The enemy, who had learned to  
despise the futile schemes and ti-  
mid councils of a weak, corrupt,  
and disunited ministry, were asto-  
nished at the rapid progress of our  
arms, and the success of all our  
enterprizes : in every part of the  
globe, they were attacked, sur-  
prized, and defeated — France  
bled at every vein.

All Europe was surprized at our triumph. They sincerely envied our happiness; but the name of Pitt awed them into acquiescence and silence.

With all this uncommon success, we are not to be surprized if Pitt was as much hated as he was admired. His superior qualities excited the envy of a proud and degenerate nobility: eclipsed by the splendor of his virtues, they felt the disgrace of inferiority when near him.

His

His temper was not indeed of the conciliatory kind : he could neither cajole like Fox, nor caress like Walpole : he trusted to the vigour of his mind, and the uprightness of his intentions. The great things he did for the nation gained him such a popularity as no minister, no king of England, had enjoyed before.

Whether he retired from business upon the sudden opposition he met with in the cabinet, or from any deliberate design of his own, may be doubted ; he certainly



tainly had foreseen into what channel all political affairs would run; nor had he very decisive proofs that he was grateful to his royal Master.

It must be owned, that the sudden step of resigning his post appeared, to moderate people, rash and violent. They thought, that his having obtained early intelligence of the family-compact between the courts of Versailles and Madrid was not a sufficient pretext for seizing the Spanish fleet.

When

When Mr. Pitt resigned the seals, the King justified his council, for rejecting the proposed attack upon Spain, with great dignity; nay, he declared he should have been at a loss to support a measure which the equity of his mind condemned. But, notwithstanding he could not approve the sanguine advice of the Minister, he owned himself to be truly sensible of his great services; and made him an unlimited offer of any rewards which were in the power of the Crown to bestow.

This

This unexpected gentleness of behaviour in the Prince softened the haughty spirit of the Minister, and he burst into tears :—the interview became extremely affecting.

The Great Person is acknowledged to be master of a most winning manner of address, and to be the most powerful persuader in the world. Nor can it be wondered at, that the man who had ever manifested the most sovereign contempt for money should, in his circumstances, accept of a moderate pension.

In

In spite of this unexpected conduct of Pitt, a conduct so seemingly inconsistent with patriotism; and though, by accepting a peerage, he has rendered himself almost totally incapable of serving his country; the people pursue him still with the most ardent and unremitted love and veneration. They still look up to him, as their friend, patron, and protector; as the only man whose abilities can save them from distress, and whose virtues can secure them from that tide of corruption which is now overflowing the nation.

E A R L



EARL of CHESTERFIELD.

**T**HE character of Lord Chesterfield is generally well understood.—It is agreed on all hands that he was a discreet Clodius; a sober duke of Wharton — born with inferior abilities to those which distinguished that unfortunate nobleman, but with the same passion for universal admiration, he was master of more prudence and discretion.

He formed himself very early to make a distinguished figure in the  
state.

state. Impelled by his ruling passion, he applied himself assiduously to studies which might render him an accomplished speaker, an able negotiator, a counsellor in the cabinet—to sum up all, one equal to any civil employment. There cannot be a doubt that he aimed at acquiring the office of Prime Minister; or at least the power of appointing the person whom he approved to that post. But the superior abilities of Walpole disappointed his ambition.

His situation was flattering:—  
When young, he was placed about  
the

the person of George the Second, when Prince of Wales ; he did not reflect, that those who are in the most elevated station have no idea of friendship independent of a most implicit, not to say *abject*, resignation to their will. His marriage with the dutchess of Kendal's niece, so far from advancing his interest at court, occasioned a litigation between him and his Sovereign.

He understood what is called the balance of Europe, or the several interests and claims of its Princes, perfectly. This science, with his polished address, qualified him to  
be

CHARACTERS REVIEWED. 81

be one of the ablest negotiators of his time. He made himself acquainted with the characters of all the great men in the several courts of Europe; he knew their intrigues, their attachments, and their foibles; and was enabled from thence to counteract all their political machinations.

I am persuaded that his being sent on his first embassy to Holland was rather an honourable exile than a mark of favour; he would in all probability have been troublesome at home. Walpôle did not envy him the honour of

G

shining



82 LORD CHESTERFIELD'S

shining among the Dutch, and eclipsing a French envoy by his superior adroitness.

As a speaker, he is justly celebrated for a certain accuracy, as well as brilliancy, of style; for pointed wit, gay humour, and sportive facetiousness. However, his admirers must confess, that he never could reach the sublime in oratory. Of all the great speakers antient and modern, he chiefly resembled Hyperides \*. He frequently

—Habet moratum dicendi genus cum suavitate jucundum, leniter dulcedine conditum; et innumeræ sunt in illo urbanitates,  
natus

### CHARACTERS REVIEWED. 83

quently strove to disarm his adversaries by the most profuse commendation of their abilities; but, what is certainly very reprehensible in him, while he bestowed unlimited commendations on the ministers whom he opposed, he threw out the most stinging reflections on the Prince, as if he had forgotten that the servants of the crown are alone accountable for errors in government.

*nasus maxime forensis, festivitas liberalis, victrix in ironiis facilitas, joci non illepidi et minime inepti, sed rei inhærentes, felixque diasyrmus, & multa vis comica, aculeusque cum joco scopum bene attingente, & non imitabilis venustas in his omnibus.*

Longinus de Hyperide, p. 187. ed. Pearce.

The most applauded, as well as unexceptionable part of his public character, was his administration of Ireland: as a Viceroy, he shone with great lustre, and was universally approved; perhaps he was indebted to this singular good fortune, for his being called to the office of Secretary of State, at the expiration of his first year's government of that kingdom.

In private life we should naturally pronounce a Chesterfield the most satisfied of all men: easy, gay, polite, and master of his passions, what could such a man want, to render

der his happiness complete?—The same passion for admiration, which actuated him in publick, accompanied him through every walk of life.

“ Tho’ wondering Senates hung on all he  
“ spoke ;

“ The club must hail him master of the  
“ joke.”

When he had reached one goal, he panted for another. He aimed at universality of character : he wished to be esteemed the patron of learned men ; but wanted generosity of soul to merit that title.



He espoused and patronized a great genius of the age, who addressed an admirable plan of his Dictionary to him; but the capriciousness and unstability of his mind prevented his gaining that honour he most ardently wished for, a dedication of the work itself. A letter written to him on that memorable occasion by the author, who despised his meanness, and disdained to gratify his vanity, will live for ever in the memory of those who have been favoured with the recital of it.

It

It is impossible to reconcile to any principles of reason and morality the shocking advice which he gives his son, "to treat all women alike, and "to suppose them all equally liable "to seduction." Was then his Lordship so successful a lover? was his address so formidable, that no lady could resist him? His Lordship, I am afraid, was not wholly free from affectation. Great wits, and men who court applause from all the world, are not generally the most passionate lovers!

Prior's Cloe was a poetical and ideal character—poor Pope was  
im-

immoderately and ostentatiously fond of Patty Blount—and Swift, after having admired and courted the celebrated Stella near twenty years, married her, and was afterwards never in her company but when a third person was present.

I would not insinuate that his Lordship was so cold a lover as Swift; nor do I imagine him to be the libertine he wishes to pass for. Like Lord Foppington in the play, he might think the reputation of an amour with a fine woman the most delicious part of the business.

I never heard of any of his Lordship's successful gallantries, except that which brought Mr. Stanhope into the world. His contempt of the sex might possibly arise from their dislike and aversion to him.

That we may be enabled to furnish out a finished portrait of his Lordship, the Editor of the Characters has bluntly referred us to a gentleman distinguished for elegance of manner, and many amiable qualities : *It is true, he rides well, and serves the King* \*. The gentleman has made no secret of a

\* Vide Editor's Advertisement.

trans-



transaction which certainly reflects some disgrace upon the noble Peer. But he does not wish, I am persuaded, that any man's general character should receive its colour from a single action.

The fact which the Editor alludes to is as follows: Lord Stanhope, during the Earl his father's lifetime, borrowed the sum of £. 6,000. from this gentleman's father, upon bond. The father died, and bequeathed the bond and growing interest, which at last was accumulated to £. 12,000. to his heirs. The gentleman solicited payment of the money

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money in vain for several years ; he intreated, he urged, he threatened to commence a suit at law against him. His Lordship at length offered to pay half the money. The friends of the gentleman persuaded him to accept the proposal, rather than contend with a man so artful and so powerful. The gentleman took the advice of his friends.



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